

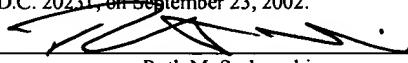
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Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on September 23, 2002.


Ruth M. Saskowski



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In the application of:

Lee A. BULLA, *et al.*

Serial No.: 09/696,801

Filing Date: 25 October 2000

For: GENE MINING SYSTEM AND
METHOD

Examiner: Lori A. Clow, Ph.D.

Group Art Unit: 1631

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is in response to an Office action herein mailed 22 April 2002, time for response to which was set to expire 22 July 2002. A petition for an extension of time of two (2) months until 22 September 2002 is attached hereto, along with the required fee. The considered claims, claims 13-82 were rejected. Careful consideration has been given to the grounds for rejection, and the following amendment and discussion are offered in response.. Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Enclosed is the following Exhibit A: Version With Markings To Show Changes Made.